

Safety .

Picture this.... You have finally realized your dream home close to the foothills. The sun is setting as you sit in your backyard.. What is that.. Nature is putting on a fireworks display... Is that smoke you smell.? You look over the trees and see smoke. It is in your vicinity. A lightning strike! You run in and contact the Forest Service and report a strike. You are told they are on the way as the air fire patrol has turned it in. As you hang up the phone you see the retardant aircraft coming your way and as they go over your home, they drop retardant and the fire is put out. Your home is saved... your beautiful view is saved... Now.. let's picture another scenario. Same home... same lightning... same call to the Forest Service... same announcement that help is on the way.. but wait, you can see the retardant plane approaching... you can see the retardant falling, but WAIT.. it is far away from your home. What happened? The plane took off from the Ravalli County airport at Hamilton, but because of the length of the runway, it could not take off with a full load. Your home, your dream, your view is gone.. It could be prevented. If only the runway had been safe enough for the plane to take off with a full load.

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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